

PARKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

SEPT 16, 2014 MEETING

I. Meeting Called to Order at 6:05 PM by Chair Welles Guilmartin; City Hall Parking Services Office;

Present Committee Members:

Sandra Driska Russo, Robert Santangelo, Peter Harding, Welles Guilmartin, Marc Levin, Jen Alexander (arrived 6:15pm), Marie K. Leary

Others Present

Geen Thazhampallath-Parking Director,

Alex Grec-Middletown Press

Approval of Meeting Minutes

VOTE APPROVED 6-0, Harding Motion, Driska Russo 2nd.

II. Public Session for Agenda Items

None

III. Chairmen's and Director's Reports –

a. **Communications:** none

b. **Summary Reports:** none

c. **Budget Reports:** Ordinance discussion below; Director informed cmte of City Finance's wish to take \$30,000 for repayment of appropriation for parking study. All members expressed significant anger at this and felt it was another attempt by the City to raid the parking fund.

d. **Vendor Relations:**

i. Director shared tentative timeline to replace Amano. Cmte member Levin hoped to have advance word by having director attend various community meetings and talk to local media. Multiple members felt and stressed the need to accomplish implementation by mid Nov. They felt we should not disturb December holiday shopping season if possible. They felt it critical to have people in the lots to help explain the technology. Director shared the new signage plan to support the new kiosk technology. Target is Nov 24. Lead time post contract resolution is 6-8 weeks.

e. **Government or Community Relations:** None

IV. Old Business:

a. Director gave quick updates on various projects. He said the pedestrian project which due to easement issues is on hold until Spring 2015 but drainage work is going forward in October by PW. He also said the arcade project was now underway. Director updated the committee on the walkway project legal issues and therefore delays. The drainage will be done by PW to save some expenses.

b. Director gave a quick update on the garage repair project with the start date set as Sept 15. The project plans to replace concrete, put in nets and resurface portions of upper level; Selected bid winner is Krisha Construction of Attleboro MA. Director

informed cmte of Krisha's mistake on their bid and their decision to honor the bid.
Selected bid was \$70,400 nearly 30K less than next bidder.

- V. New Business:** Ordinance Change proposing rate increases, lot free time, permit holder rates reduction, overnight parking permits, special rates, or exemptions was introduced. Director talked to all six alternatives that were given to the cmte at the last meeting. Discussion centered on which way dollars should flow and exactly how to calculate what should go to the parking fund. Cmte member Harding emphasized that it should be an easy and simple method/approach. Member Alexander felt that we should set a system which does not give the City desire to consistently raise rates. Member Russo-Driska and Santangelo gave council views that a lump sum to the fund would not be feasible but the City keeping either a mill rate or flat rate as close to the current amount they get was best. Best alternatives were felt to be either .3 mills to the City or \$1,000,000 flat to the city excluding future debt repayment. Director also discussed in detail the ordinance to change rates and permits. Director shared that the chamber leadership felt it best to stay the same in terms of rates. Members Levin and Harding and Alexander felt we should charge \$1 if we can't or don't give change otherwise public will feel cheated at .75cents. Director said he would confirm but believed we were not taking coins.

Committee Voted 6-1; Alexander opposed. to approve the rate change for Meilli and Arcade only to \$1.00,

Committee Voted 7-0; against permit change in terms of rate reduction or tiered system

Committee Voted 7-0; for minimum 65 1 hour free spaces in downtown lots

Committee Voted 7-0; to support other ordinance changes such as flat rate provision, residential parking provision, overnight parking provision.

- VI. Adjournment 7:10PM;** Harding Motion, Marc Levin 2nd. Unanimous.